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4TH YEAR.....NO. 313

AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

BOOTH'S THEATRE—LA GRANDE DUCHESSE.
NIBLO'S GARDEN—REINSTATEMENT.
WALLACKS—ESTELLE.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—H. M. S. PINAFORE.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—FRENCH PLATS.
AQUARIUM—PERFORMING ANIMALS. Matinee.
ABBEY'S PARK—PRIZE IN ICELAND.
DALY'S THEATRE—ARABIAN NIGHT.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.
THALIA THEATRE—DEE MARY DE DEBUTANT.
ACADEMY OF MUSIC—OPERA HOUSE. BENEFIT.
GERMANIA THEATRE—THESEUS KNOXES.
HAVERLY'S THEATRE—THE GALLAT SLAVE.
BROADWAY OPERA HOUSE—SALVATRIST.
ABERLE'S THEATRE—THE BOY DETECTIVE.
THEATRE COMIQUE—MELICAN GUARDS' CHRISTMAS.
KOSTER & BIAL'S CONCERT HALL.
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS—THOMPSON STREET PLATS.
TONY PASTOR'S THEATRE—VARIETY.
AMERICAN DIME MUSEUM—CURIOSITIES.
CHICKERING HALL—ENGLISH GLEES.
AMERICAN ART GALLERY—RUSKIN DRAWINGS.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—CHRISTMAS CATTLE.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1879.

The probabilities are that the weather in New
York and its vicinity to-day will be cloudy and
cold, with rain or snow in the morning, followed
by rapid clearing. To-morrow it will be very cold
and fair.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Stocks were very
strong and active until the closing hour, when
the market became dull and somewhat weaker.
Money on call ruled at 6 per cent to Stock Ex-
change borrowers, with exceptions at 7. Gov-
ernment bonds were quiet and steady. State securi-
ties were weak and railway bonds were very
active and for the most part strong. Exchange
was quiet at unchanged figures.

THE TIDE OF IMMIGRATION is increasing.

FINING A LIQUOR DEALER for selling intoxi-
cating drink to a boy is a step in the right di-
rection.

ANOTHER STABBING AFFAIR between school
boys. The courts should give quick tempered
children a significant warning.

ELEVEN MEN are in the Tombs Prison await-
ing sentence or trial for murder in the first
degree. Truly a ghastly record for the greatest
city on the continent.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION succeeded hand-
somely in doing nothing at the special meet-
ing called to consider the reconstruction of its build-
ing department. Old wrongs die hard.

THE REMARKABLE Greenfield murder case
may possibly be reopened for the fourth time,
the accused man having been reprieved that his
counsel may have time to obtain new evidence
that is said to exculpate Greenfield.

THE STEAMER DEYON, which left this port on
Saturday for Bristol, England, was met in a
disabled condition by the steamer Hansa, from
Bremen, in latitude 48 deg. and longitude 67
deg. 32 min. She arrived at this port yesterday.

NEW YORK'S SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS and SE-
PERIMENTERS are in session this week. So
many able men should manage between them
to find some way of preventing the school room
abuses to which the HERALD has made frequent
reference.

THE NEW YORK FIRE DEPARTMENT is in a
"high state of efficiency," including the per-
sonnel, the apparatus and the buildings. There
is very little doubt that our local fire depart-
ment is the best in the world, and there is no
question that the men are both brave and
prompt in discharging their perilous duty.

THE ELEVATED RAILWAY COMPANY took a
fare from a drunken man the other night, and
one of their conductors afterward pushed him
away from the platform. He tried to obtain the
ride he paid for, and now lies in Chambers
Street Hospital. Of course the conductor was
not to blame, but the company might return the
ten cents. They can afford to be magnanimous.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH did some good work
in the Court of Special Sessions yesterday, but
why does it not hunt bigger game? To fine
men for carting manure by daylight and carry-
ing ill-smelling bones through the streets is very
well, but why not prosecute the men, no matter
who they are, whose neglect keeps whole blocks
and streets smelling bad for twenty-four hours
every day?

THE WEATHER.—The disturbance referred to
in yesterday's HERALD as advancing over the
central valleys suddenly changed direction and
moved northward. Its centre is now over the
British possessions, but its influence ex-
tends as far south as the Gulf of Mexico. The
area of high barometer that overlies the New
England and Middle Atlantic coasts is receding
slowly into the ocean. In the West and South-
west the pressure is beginning to increase,
causing the gradients for northwesterly winds
to become steep over the Upper Missouri and
Mississippi Valley districts. Rain fell through-
out all sections of the country during the early
portion of the day, except on the South Atlantic
coast, where the weather was generally fair and
in the Northwest, where snow is reported.
The winds have been high in the Northwest,
brisk to strong in the lake regions and fresh
elsewhere. The temperature rose in the Middle
Atlantic and New England States and the lower
lake regions, remained nearly stationary in the
Gulf and South Atlantic States and fell decid-
edly in the Northwest and the upper lake re-
gions. A destructive "blizzard" is reported to
have passed over Dakota. The weather in
New York and its vicinity to-day will be cloudy
and cold, with rain or snow in the morning,
followed by rapid clearing. To-morrow it will
be very cold and fair.

Our Indian Difficulties.

For the moment an important difficulty
has been overcome in the negotiation
with the Utes; and the way is opened to a
possible settlement without an Indian war
of the troubles which began at the White
River Agency. It is a peculiar evidence of
the delicate relations of the government to
all the interests involved that, if it as-
sumes a rigid, unalterable position, as the
army authorities would apparently advise,
and requires the savages to accommodate
themselves to that position or to fight, then
it is denounced as inspired by those various
interests to whom an Indian war might be
advantageous; while, when it endeavors to
meet a natural proposition of the Indians
half way in order to avoid war, it is equally
denounced as inspired by some other im-
proper motives.

Undoubtedly there is a good reason be-
hind the Indian demand that the savages
accused of the White River crimes shall not
be tried in their own country; a reason de-
rived from the natural perception that the
passion which takes hold of men when
blood has been shed, the spirit of revenge,
and the prejudices with which these blind
the reason are not favorable to that equal
consideration of two sides of a story which
is the condition of justice. In every State
whose statutes give an accused criminal the
right to a change of venue this principle is
recognized as a necessary element of a just
administration of the laws. Justice de-
clares everywhere that the ill opinion
which a man's neighbors may have of him
and the foregone conclusions of their
omnity shall not be a part of the case
against him if the courts can prevent it.

Ouray has simply demanded for his Indians
a change of venue on a national scale.
He stands before the national justice as cul-
prits in the Roman Empire sometimes stood
in Roman courts, and has made an appeal
such as they sometimes made. Hopeless
of justice as locally administered they ap-
pealed to Caesar and were sent to Rome to
be heard on that appeal; and so Ouray,
who cannot be doubtful of the issue of the
fate of his men if tried anywhere in Colo-
rado, endeavors to give them the one chance
that an authority not under the influence
of sentiments with regard to the Indians
that are aside from the specific merits of
this particular case may find in the his-
tory of their acts some shadow of jus-
tification for what they did. As the
assembled Indian authorities had al-
ready decided on the naked proposition
for a surrender of the men demanded to
fight rather than surrender them, and as
Ouray's proposition was apparently a way
out of the difficulty so presented, as its
acceptance was alternative to an immediate
commencement of hostilities, the adminis-
tration pursued the only proper course in
accepting that proposition. We can fight
any time, and will be just as well prepared
for it at any time hereafter as we are now.
Ouray should not be permitted to outdo
the United States government in humane
efforts to prevent war. It is justly said
that the government has assumed by this
acceptance an authority for which it is
doubtful if there is warrant in the
laws. Civil authority is imperative in one
way as to the locality of trials, while a mili-
tary commission is a war machinery. If
there is war, who is the enemy unless it be
the Indians, and how can surrendered ene-
mies be tried for ordinary acts of war?
But out of this dilemma an escape may be
found by proper consideration of the treaty
making power, which is flexible as to its
limits, and is that part of our power which
should properly deal with the Indians as
men not properly subject to our laws in
their local sense, but whose position is de-
fined and guaranteed by treaty.

Great difficulties are inseparable from
dealings between any civilized and savage
peoples. It is the nature of things that
they should have conceptions of the right
and standards of justice so different as to
render their permanent agreement under
common rules of life practically impossible.
But to this radical difficulty there is added
another in our dealings with the Indians
that is, if possible, greater still. Govern-
ment is, in fact, required to guarantee that
the country shall stand still as to a growth
which we all know to be inevitable and
irrepressible. It agrees to protect the In-
dians forever in the undisturbed possession
of certain regions of country, and it
cannot do it. Unless it agrees to do
this it is of course futile to attempt
to come to any terms with the In-
dians; and to agree to do this puts the
government in a position of hostility toward
a national progress that it ought not to
oppose and cannot possibly arrest or limit.
Some men fancy they are particularly
astute when they announce the great dis-
covery that there would be no trouble with
the Utes if white men did not want to get
at the gold beneath their mountains. There
would never have been any trouble what-
ever with the Indians if white men did not
want the country for one reason or another.
White men want the mines, of course,
and will have them, too. It is natural
that they should want them. We need
not trouble ourselves with any
nice points of philosophy as to the
abstract justice of the case, for whether we
do or not the result will be the same.
Neither need we bother ourselves to wish
that the government might limit the active
advances of the white men into all those
regions. Government is subject to the will
of the nation, and the will of a very vigor-
ous part of the nation is inclined that way.
An army of one hundred thousand men
could not stop this white advance into the
wilderness, and we may be sure that even
if it could no army would be supplied for
the purpose. Government has to deal with
the facts as they are and is face to face
with an encroachment upon the Indian regions
that will in a hundred years scarcely leave
enough savages between us and the Pacific
to make up a good circus.

Consequently there is no radical remedy
for the Indian difficulties that is within
reach of legislation. Time will give an
effective remedy for the Western part of the
continent as it has for the Eastern; but the
common aspiration—the desire of philan-
thropists, the wish, in short, of the whole
mass of the people who love fair play—that
our relations with the Indians might be ad-

justed on a basis of laws that would render
impossible the collisions of constant occur-
rence, might satisfy that supposed sense
of injury which has led to so many recent
Indian wars. This wish is, we believe, vain.
Congress cannot make laws that will change
the nature of the red man or the white
man. Therefore it cannot make the
one patient under encroachments nor the
other less adventurous in his activities and
ambitions. Natural forces are in collision
in this Indian problem. Swarming migra-
tions are in motion to make rich and pros-
perous States in all that Western country,
and as the Indians cannot accommodate
themselves to such neighbors it will have
to be proved to their entire satisfaction who
is the strongest. There is no other way.
Meantime the government has a distinct
function which it seems disposed to per-
form fairly—that is, to keep the struggle as
much as possible within humane limits.

Now or Never.

It is almost superfluous for the HERALD to
praise the opinions which Senator Ham-
pton, of South Carolina, expresses to our
Washington correspondent concerning the
financial policy of the democratic party as
righteous, expedient and patriotic—right-
eous in principle, expedient for success and
patriotic by reason of the resulting certainty
of obliterating sectionalism in national pol-
itics. It is the same general policy
which we long have been urging upon
the democratic leaders in our desire to
stimulate both parties to do their best for
the country. Indeed, Senator Hampton re-
fers to the editorial columns of the HERALD
for a fuller exposition of his views than he
has given in the notable conversation which
we report.

Circumstances have combined to offer the
democratic party a sudden opportunity to
reinsate itself in the confidence of con-
servative Northern voters by simply resum-
ing its time honored doctrines concerning
finance and the currency. Senator Bayard
shows the solid path, and Senator
Hampton summons the party to step
into it out of the quagmire of
"soft money," business uncertainty and
sectional mistrust in which it has been
miserably floundering too many years,
sinking deeper and dirtier at every step.
Simultaneously with this sudden oppor-
tunity a contemptible hesitation is dis-
played among the republicans to follow the
lead of their own President and Secretary
of the Treasury. The combination of
chances and motives to persuade the dem-
ocrats into a sound policy is almost miracu-
lous, and we cordially agree with Senator
Hampton's declaration that they deserve
defeat if they are not prepared to take ad-
vantage of it.

Every week's delay to marshal the dem-
ocratic Senators and Representatives under
Senator Bayard's wise and courageous lead-
ership makes this extraordinary opportu-
nity shrink. The situation of the party is
precisely indicated in our head line—"Now
or Never."

Progress in the Capital Punishment Debate.

A physician who has hereditary claims to
speak with authority concerning the appli-
cation and effects of anesthetics replies to-
day to the argument in favor of killing
criminals by electricity. He maintains the
superior efficacy of chloroform, suggesting
a practical method of applying it within a
bag into which the prisoner's head shall be
thrust, and asserting that a comparatively
painless death will be the inevitable and
speedy result, stupor ensuing in from fif-
teen seconds to two minutes and the action
of the heart ceasing within a few minutes
afterward. We deem his suggestions very
valuable, but observe a peculiarity in them
which he shares with the professor of ap-
plied mechanics against whose proposed
electric machine for capital punishment he
argues. Both of them declare that the
administration of the fatal contrivance,
whatever it may be, or even superintend-
ence of its application, cannot be expected
from members of their professions. The
scientific expert or the physician, they say,
cannot consent to be himself the execu-
tioner. The sentiment of this declaration
is more respectable than its logic. If cap-
ital punishment is commensurable at all
we do not logically perceive why the office
of executioner is not as respectable as that
of the other agencies preliminary to its in-
diction. The Sanson family in France
were men of good education and polite
manners for several generations. The
public headman at Berlin is a meritorious
soldier of the Franco-German war and
wears the decoration of the Iron Cross.
Nevertheless, we recognize that sentimentally
there is an unconquerable repugnance
among civilized mankind to becoming the
proximate agent of killing criminals. A
jurymen will unhesitatingly bring in a
verdict of guilty against a murderer and a
judge will unhesitatingly sentence him to
death. Both verdict and sentence are es-
sential preliminaries to the halter, and yet
no human inducement would persuade
either of the remote agents to perform the
logical consequence of their own acts.
Even among a file of soldiers, constrained
by military order to shoot a man, it is cus-
tomary to leave the bullet out of one of the
guns, and the usage is deemed to be a safe-
guard against insubordination. It follows
that we have reached one definite result in
the debate upon a substitute for the gal-
lows—namely, that it must be something
so simple that the ordinary American sheriff
will be able to work it without direct sen-
sitive assistance. Every contrivance, there-
fore, which will not stand this test must be
peremptorily ruled out of consideration.

A Dilemma for Senator Blaine.

Senator Blaine opposes withdrawing the
general legal tender quality from the
greenbacks or Treasury notes because it will
"work great injustice to the people" in
some mysterious way which he does not
specify. Supposing for a moment that such
really could be the effect, then Senator
Blaine is grossly remiss in his duty as a
legislator in not pressing for the addition
of a legal tender quality to the national
bank notes. They are not and never have
been a legal tender in the dealings of the
people among themselves; only in their

dealings with the government. Yet we
never have heard any complaint of their
"working great injustice" on this account,
and all that Senator Bayard's resolution
proposes in respect to the greenbacks is to
put them on a par with national bank notes
in their legal tender quality.

A Suggestion to Secretary Sherman.

The republicans in Congress are in the
condition in which a ship is said to be by
seamen when she is "in irons." They have
fallen head to the wind, have lost headway
and are unable to cast on either tack. The
advisory committee of their caucus has, as
our special Washington correspondent re-
ported several days ago, and as is now
officially announced, decided to recommend
that the party shall oppose any action
whatever on the currency, either for the re-
tirement of legal tender notes or for the
retirement of the legal tender clause. Senator
Blaine, we observe, has taken the same
ground, and on the ridiculous pretext or
assumption that to repeal the Legal Tender
act would "work great injustice to a ma-
jority of the people of the country," which
means, if it means anything, that in Mr.
Blaine's opinion Treasury notes should be
legal tender in perpetuity.

We do not mean now to combat the rea-
sons which are given for the republican in-
action. They are all fallacious, and no
harm will or can come to any legitimate
interest by the abrogation of the legal
tender quality of greenbacks. For the
present we wish only to suggest to Sec-
retary Sherman the propriety and usefulness
to the country of explaining somewhat
more fully than he had occasion to do in
his report the groundwork of the conclu-
sions which he there made public on this
question.

There is no doubt that the Secretary's
recommendation to Congress to repeal the
legal tender clause, wise and necessary as
it was, has not been welcomed by either
party. Some of the republican leaders,
among whom we notice with regret Sen-
ators Conkling and Blaine, oppose it.
We do not doubt that the Sec-
retary has been surprised at the
opposition, for he apparently believed the
assurances so often and persistently given
by republican orators to the country that
they were in an especial manner the friends
of a sound currency. The opposition of
Messrs. Blaine and Conkling and other
prominent republicans has caused a gen-
eral halt along the lines of their party.
Its leaders, in and out of Congress, do not
know what ground to take—whether to
support Mr. Sherman or to stand by Mr.
Sherman's republican opponents and join
them in violating all the promises of the
party.

Mr. Sherman would, in our judgment, do
a service to the country if he did at this
moment, when his party hesitates, and
when the democratic party looks coldly at
Mr. Bayard's proposition, explain in some
detail not only the reasons why he thinks
the legal tender clause should now be re-
pealed, but also what additional legislation
he believes to be advisable, the reasons why
no harm will in his judgment come to any
legitimate interest in the country from the
repeal, and what the real consequences
will be. Such an explanation, coming from
him at this time, would have an important
influence in shaping the policy of his own party,
and perhaps of both parties, in Congress,
and would enlighten many members who do
not understand as they ought the bearings
of the question. We need not repeat that
we hold Mr. Sherman's recommendation to
be most judicious and timely, and that we
entirely agree with him that it is better that
Congress should repeal the legal tender
clause than that it should be left to the de-
cision of the Supreme Court.

An Objection to Interviews.

In the HERALD to-day we reprint from the
Paris *Evenement* an article by Mr. Aurelien
Scholl, which he perhaps thought was the
last word the world need hear on the sub-
ject of interviews published in newspapers.
Mr. Scholl is scornfully severe on inter-
views and interviewers. His words are, in
fact, of the kind which the late Artemus
Ward classified, with his robust orthography,
as "sarkazums." But he pretends to be crit-
ical as well as sarcastic, and gives mixed up
with more ridicule much that careless read-
ers may mistake for argument. Against
ridicule we do not of course undertake to
defend the processes of the interviewer.
Interviewing can be laughed at. What can-
not? From the French Republic to the
attraction of gravitation there is no single
subject in the world that some one has not
laughed at or treated with elaborate ridi-
cule; but the attraction goes on just the
same and so does the Republic, and the inter-
view as a journalistic institution can stand
far wittier assaults than this one. As for the
points in this article which are intended to
present arguments against the interview,
they are ultra-homoeopathic in proportion
to the whole. It is said that interviews are
monotonous; that they are always denied;
that interviewers may forget what they hear;
may misunderstand a gesture; may be for-
eigners and not precisely understand the
language used, and, finally, that if they
can interview anybody they ought to inter-
view Kaiser Wilhelm, the Czar and Prince
Bismarck—all of which, by the way, they
have done. This argument is for clearness
of ideas, as will be seen, fully worthy the
writer who calls a HERALD correspondent a
"Massachusettsia."

Sometimes a distinguished man wants to
get at the public and convince it. Some-
times the public wants to get at the distin-
guished man to ascertain his opinions on
some topic of immediate moment in pol-
itics, finance, science or what not. In all
such cases it is said by those who object to
the interview that the distinguished man
can communicate his ideas by letters or
speeches if he wants to, and if he does not
want to he is entitled to be left alone.
But if the interview merely afforded one
more line of communication between men
of peculiar knowledge or men of special
social and political importance and the
general public there would then be much
to be said in its favor; but we hold that
its position is better than this—that it is a
method of communication of superior value
for many cases, and in some is the only one

possible. In their speeches men treat
great public issues always in general terms.
They seldom altogether satisfy the public
curiosity. They are not aware of the pre-
cise points on which they have failed.
Any average man in the public can
put simply by question the points
on which light is wanted, and so
clear up the doubts. The interviewer
does this. Moreover, an issue arises in
which there is no occasion for a speech
and on which a letter would seem to be
uncalled for, on which, however, the pub-
lic would like to know the opinions of some
one or two men, which men would not be
averse to give their opinions. Here the
interviewer is invaluable to all concerned.
He goes to the source, gets just the knowl-
edge that is wanted and presents it in the
simplest form. He is representative of the
public disposition to put a plain inquiry to
the man most fitted to give information.

It is true that the interview is apt to be
abused, and is abused, and that interviews
are sometimes denied. Often, indeed, in-
terviews have been denied because of their
startling fidelity, the speakers only appreci-
ating the danger to themselves of their
own utterances when they see them in type.
We believe they have often been denied
in that spirit than in any other. Some-
times, however, interviews altogether ficti-
tious are put in print, especially in French
papers. This fact, not uncommon in Paris,
is of the rarest possible occurrence here.
Interviewing as practised by the HERALD,
and by reputable journals generally in this
country and in England, is open to none of
these reproaches. For our part we always
endeavor to secure for them the correction
and approval of the persons interviewed,
and it is odd that it was this part of our
procedure that seems to have provoked the
merriment of our Parisian critic.

Physical Discoveries of the Arctic Regions.

The geographical and physical discoveries
of the Swedish expedition which made the
northeast passage have not yet been pub-
lished, but despatches from Mr. Oscar Dick-
son, of Gothenberg, and letters of Nord-
enskjöld's officers, very recently pub-
lished, give some highly important results
of their Arctic observations during the
past winter. From their winter harbor,
about 67 degrees north and 173 degrees
west, at the northern extremity of Behring
Strait, they ascertained that the land forms
an extensive rolling plain, with a mountain
chain in the interior of the Tchekutch Pe-
ninsula. The southerly and southeasterly
winds which reached the Vega, although
originally coming from the Pacific and there-
fore moist, were robbed of their moisture in
passing over the mountain heights, arriving
on the Arctic shore dry and warm; and the
explorers say that the summits of the
Tchekutch chain give to the winds
which pass over them the prop-
erties of "the föhn." The föhn, or
"snow melter," as the Swiss call it, is the
well known south wind from the Mediter-
ranean, which, as it ascends the Alps, be-
comes intensely chilled by expansion, is
condensed in its descent of the northern
side of these mountains, and, even in win-
ter, is at a high temperature when it touches
the plains. The existence of a Siberian
föhn is something new. But, in a geo-
graphical point of view, its interest is in-
creased when we connect with it another
fact mentioned by the Swedes. While the
warmest winds that reached their winter
harbor descended from the icy summits of
the Tchekutch Mountains "the coldest
winds came from the southwest and west;
that is to say, from the Siberian plain."

These data will enable geographers to
make a pretty accurate definition of the
"great Siberian plain" on its northeastern
angle, and to approximately determine its
climatic influence on the northwestern
coasts of America. The great northern levels
of Asia forming this expansive plain are not
far from three million square miles, within
which lies, perhaps, the chief refrigerator
of the Northern Hemisphere. Nordens-
kjöld's officers say that "the coldest winds"
of the abnormally cold winter they spent
on the shores of the Polar Ocean "came,"
not from the direction of the Pole itself,
but from "the Siberian plain." They ex-
perienced, indeed, long continued north-
erly or polar winds, but none so severe as
those from the great Asiatic refrigerator.
Looking poleward in favorable weather
they could see far out over the sea,
"almost constantly, a blue water
sky from true northwest to east,"
from which Nordenskjöld infers that "so-
called polynias or open places probably
occur here all the year round." This is all
the more remarkable from the fact that "the
wind direction during the winter was
almost constantly between north-west and
north-north-west," or from a poleward point.
The observations as reported all agree in
showing that the chief thermometric de-
pressions or "cold waves" that swept over
the ice-bound Vega, as her scientific corps
were watching out the long polar night,
emanated from the vast interior level of the
Asian continent, while the prevailing winds
from the far north were not sufficiently
cold to seal up the ocean water beyond
them. It seems highly probable, from these
observations, that the original source
whence come the "polar waves" that de-
scend on our Pacific coast and move over
the United States every winter is not the
north polar area, but the great Siberian
refrigerator. The absence of such a continen-
tal refrigerator near the western coast of
Europe may help to explain its comparative
exemption from these "waves," which has
heretofore been attributed to Gulf Stream
agencies.

The Swedish officers state that even when
the sky was clear there went on "a con-
stant snow storm" a few inches above the
ground, "carrying an immense mass of
water in a frozen state over the north coast
of Siberia to more southerly regions," play-
ing a sufficiently important part, in a cli-
matic respect, "as a carrier of cold," to de-
serve the attention of meteorologists.
Whatever may hereafter be found to be the
commercial value of the northeast passage
it is evident that the physical researches
made by the Swedish explorers will prove
of greater importance in the elucidation
of the great problems of terrestrial physics.

Dumping the City's Refuse.

Voluntary repentance is best for a sin-
ner, but if there is no hope of that the
next best thing is compulsory reformation.
Whenever Congress passes the bill that
Senator Conkling introduced yesterday,
which forbids the dumping of street sweep-
ings and garbage anywhere in this harbor
or within five miles of Coney Island or
Sandy Hook, our Police Board will be com-
pelled to adopt some intelligent plan to
dispose of the refuse of the city in place of
the present methods. The Secretary of
War, in his annual report, recommended
just such a measure as Mr. Conkling pro-
poses, and public opinion is unanimous in
its favor. The HERALD's detective observa-
tions last summer concerning the shoaling
of the harbor by illegal and careless dump-
ing are bearing their fruit. Such being
the state of the case the quicker the Police
Board prepares for the changes in its
methods which this bill will make neces-
sary the better for its own comfort and for
the public convenience. It has timely
warning now of the necessity for such
preparation, and it will be solely its own
fault if the passage of the bill does not find
it ready with a new system in working
order.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Carlyle is unable to leave his house.
Miss Josephine Meeker arrived in Washington last
evening.
Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus W. Field arrived yesterday
from Havana.
Lord March paid to the Prince of Wales \$30,000 for
the Hildergarde.
Ex-Congressman Roberts, editor of the *Union Her-
ald*, is in Washington.
Beautiful young squaws of the Indian Nation make
a sensation at Texas dances.
Mr. Hendricks says that he does not consider him-
self necessary to party success.
Lilac bushes are budding in New Jersey and dan-
dellions are in bloom in Massachusetts.
Prince Napoleon is not to take bread, vegetables or
white wines and his disease cannot be cured.
Every salmon keeper in Colorado says that the Chi-
nese must go because they live on ten cents a day.
Denis Kearney having been fined for carrying a
concealed weapon now carries the weapon in a belt
in full sight.
"Nothing," says the Cincinnati *Commercial*, "is so
hard to get back as a borrowed book, except a bor-
rowed umbrella."
Senator Jones, of Nevada, has gone home to pre-
pare a speech on the finances because he wants to
be where the finances are.
Secretary of the Navy Thompson will spend the
holidays at his home in Indiana. He expects to leave
Washington on Friday next.
The condition of Postmaster Edmunds, of Wash-
ington, is said by his physicians to be very critical.
It is not expected that he will recover.
Ex-Secretary of War Meade expects to leave
Washington early next week to assume the duties of
United States Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit.
Mr. William Atter, who has in the winter time
identified himself with Florida, pays this year a
large amount toward premiums for the Florida State
fair.
An excited and earnest preacher, denouncing dis-
play at funerals, demands to know "who carried the
apostles to the grave?" Well, sir, one of them had
Paul-bearers.
Sir Edward Thornton, a Washington correspondent
writes, does not grow old. His hair and whiskers
could not turn a shade whiter, nor his clear, rosy,
English complexion be a whit improved.
Rosal is invited to a gay bachelors' supper. "Im-
possible," says he, "I have an engagement with
Tata." "To-morrow, then?" "Impossible. To-
morrow I am to be married. Let us make it the day
after to-morrow."
The Empress of Russia and the Queen of Italy both
suffer from a lack of blood, the Empress from being
cooped up in hot winter rooms and the Queen from
the shock which came when she saw the attempt to
assassinate Humbert.
French journals are growing peculiarly spry.
"The Island of Cuba," says one, "is now perfectly
tranquil. One of our correspondents has been sent
there in haste. If nothing happens, our readers
shall be the first to know it."
Young M. Duval, the fast son of the founder of
cheap restaurants in Paris—called by some "Le Duc
de Bouillon;" by others, "un gentilhomme com-
me"—has survived his attempted suicide in the
apartments of Cors Pearl and has just got married.
The President has recognized the following French
Consular officers of Russia, namely:—Jules Moller,
Vice Consul at Galsvostok; Edward Stern, Vice Consul
at New York; Gustave Niebaum, Vice Consul at San
Francisco, and Charles Nitze, Vice Consul at Balti-
more.
Senator Plumb, says the Washington correspond-
ent of the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, reminds one of a
Western farmer, Senator Saunders of a patriarch,
Senators Dawes and Hoar of well-to-do school
teachers. Senator Pinckney Whyte is nervous and
fidgety.
A tramping umbrella mender, doing some work,
borrowed a pair of tinsmith's shears at Turner's,
Orange county, in this State, and arriving at another
village discovered the shears in his kit. He immedi-
ately sent them back by the next train, with pro-
fuse apologies. Count one for the tramp.
A reception was given by the President and Mrs.
Hew at the White House, last evening, to a large
party of ladies and gentlemen from New York. Ex-
Representative Bundy was in charge of the visitors.
Quite a number of Senators and Representatives,
with their wives, also participated.
Pretty little Miss Joanne Samary, Madeline
Brohan's niece, and the youngest member of the
Théâtre Français wants to be married. The husband
is all ready with his carriages and horses, but Joanne
is a coquette, and must wait for a year to be free.
Hence there is much putting in "the House of
Moliere."
Saturday Review—"The use of the garrulous
method in literature answers to conversation in the
world. There are ladies who can talk only of cooks,
bonnets and babies, and there are men whose con-
versation is limited to discourse on coats, boots,
women, horses and cigars. There is a style in litera-
ture that corresponds to the disjointed talk, and it is
doubtless the only literature that the disjointed
talkers can read."
London *Truth*—"Apropos of photographs and
photographic lanterns, a sturdy peasant from the
Tyrol, says the *Prædenblatt*, was standing the other
day at a shop window in Vienna looking at a repro-
duction of the fine group by Herr Rauch, the "Three
Graces," which are, of course, as befits their profes-
sion, in the simple attire of our first mother.
The peasant did not seem insensible to the perfection of
form, but after a while he burst forth, 'What fools
women are all over the world! Only to think that
those girls have not got money enough to buy them-
selves a suit of clothes, yet they spend the little
that they do possess in having their photographs
taken!'"
The *Parisian*—"Having announced the appear-
ance of a new journal called the *Gl'Blas*, we have
now to announce *Le Diable Boiteux*, which will appear
at the end of the month. The fact of the birth of
two new journals in Paris is nothing remarkable;
there appear here in the course of a year as many
new journals as in all the rest of Europe put
together. The remarkable fact is that *Le Diable*, after
having apparently been forgotten, should suddenly
come to life again. There are currents and changes
in the intellectual as in the physical world. One
day *Rabelais* is in fashion and the *Pantagruel*, the
Puissance, or the *Rabelais* are all the vogue. Another
day Voltaire comes to the front and the *Cand*